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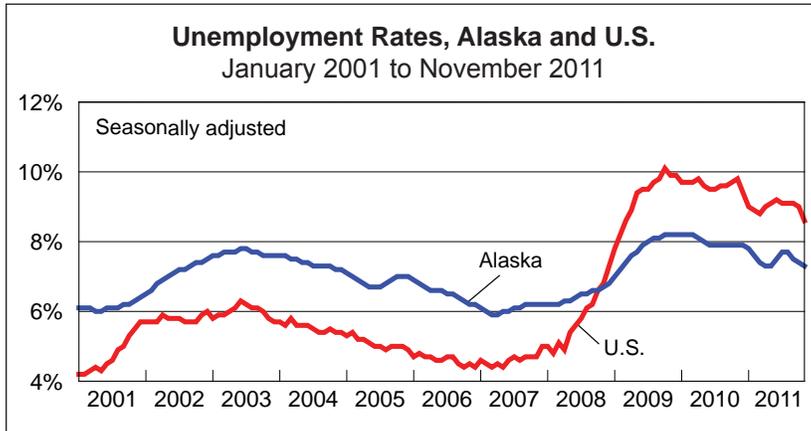
Press Release

December 16, 2011

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Unemployment rate at 7.3 percent in November



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was essentially unchanged in November, declining one-tenth of a percentage point to 7.3 percent.

The comparable national rate for November was 8.6 percent, down from 9.0 percent in October. The big drop in the national rate was only the second time in the past 10 years that it has fallen by as much as four-tenths of a percentage point.

The U.S. and Alaska rates have both drifted downward over the past year. Alaska's unemployment rate is down six-tenths of a percentage point from November 2010 and the national rate is down 1.2 percentage points.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 11/11	Revised 10/11	Revised 11/10	Year-over-year change		
				11/10	90% confidence interval ²	
Total Nonfarm Employment ³	318,000	327,200	317,900	100	-7,283	7,483
Mining and Logging	16,600	16,800	15,800	800	7	1,593
Oil and Gas	13,600	13,600	13,000	600	-	-
Construction	14,500	17,400	14,700	-200	-2,783	2,383
Manufacturing	7,400	9,800	8,700	-1,300	-2,294	-306
Retail Trade	35,800	35,900	35,100	700	-1,328	2,728
Information	6,500	6,500	6,400	100	-481	681
Financial Activities	14,900	15,100	15,200	-300	-2,243	1,643
Professional and Business Services	26,200	26,900	25,700	500	-1,293	2,293
Educational ⁴ and Health Services	43,800	43,900	43,000	800	-468	2,068
Health Care	31,900	32,000	30,900	1,000	-	-
Leisure and Hospitality	29,300	30,500	28,900	400	-1,637	2,437
Other Services	11,100	11,300	11,600	-500	-3,676	2,676
Government ⁵	85,300	85,900	86,200	-900	-	-

Notes: A dash indicates that confidence intervals are not available at this level of detail.

¹Not seasonally adjusted.

²Based on the margin of error of the estimate, a 90 percent confidence interval statistically determines a range of values within which the "true" value falls with a 90 percent level of confidence.

For more information, go to <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/c-i.pdf>.

³Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers.

Only select categories are included, so sector values will not sum to the total employment.

⁴Private education only.

⁵Includes public schools, the University of Alaska, and federally recognized tribal entities

Not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in all but one of the state's regions in November, which is typical as fisheries slow and tourism enters a deep freeze. The biggest increases in unemployment were in the most fishing-dependent regions — the Gulf Coast and Southwest rates increased by more than a percentage point, and rates nearly doubled in Kodiak and the Aleutians.

Unemployment was 20 percent or higher in Skagway and the Denali Borough, the two areas that depend most on tourism.

Preliminary employment estimates show marginal growth since November 2010, although the estimates are subject to potentially large revisions. Overall, it appears that 2011 will be a year of mild job growth for Alaska.

Beginning with the production of preliminary estimates for March 2011, production of employment estimates has transitioned from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Research and Analysis Section to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Concurrent with this transition, BLS implemented several changes to the methods to help standardize estimation across states. While these changes reduce the potential for statistical bias in state and metropolitan area estimates, they may increase month-to-month variability. More detailed information on the changes is available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/sae/cesprocs.htm>.

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	11/11	10/11	11/10
Alaska	7.3%	7.4%	7.9%
U.S.	8.6%	9.0%	9.8%

Sources for graph and tables: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Research and Analysis Web site: <http://laborstats.alaska.gov>

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	11/11 ^P	10/11	11/10	Number			Rate		
	11/11 ^P	10/11	11/10	11/11 ^P	10/11	11/10	11/11 ^P	10/11	11/10
Alaska Statewide	366,364	366,443	359,399	26,285	24,959	28,040	7.2	6.8	7.8
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	202,314	201,033	200,750	12,406	12,111	13,901	6.1	6.0	6.9
Municipality of Anchorage	158,252	157,557	157,222	8,625	8,707	10,006	5.5	5.5	6.4
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,062	43,476	43,528	3,781	3,404	3,895	8.6	7.8	8.9
Gulf Coast Region	39,098	39,497	37,382	3,535	3,118	3,724	9.0	7.9	10.0
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,229	27,387	26,018	2,423	2,261	2,658	8.9	8.3	10.2
Kodiak Island Borough	7,012	6,934	6,590	628	387	578	9.0	5.6	8.8
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,857	5,176	4,774	484	470	488	10.0	9.1	10.2
Interior Region	55,314	55,727	54,069	4,036	3,772	4,198	7.3	6.8	7.8
Denali Borough	839	945	776	168	145	155	20.0	15.3	20.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	47,783	47,978	46,798	3,025	2,839	3,203	6.3	5.9	6.8
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,572	3,607	3,571	375	343	379	10.5	9.5	10.6
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,120	3,197	2,924	468	445	461	15.0	13.9	15.8
Northern Region	13,107	12,898	12,835	1,146	1,175	1,133	8.7	9.1	8.8
Nome Census Area	4,262	4,209	4,162	459	465	491	10.8	11.0	11.8
North Slope Borough	5,663	5,518	5,551	266	276	271	4.7	5.0	4.9
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,182	3,171	3,122	421	434	371	13.2	13.7	11.9
Southeast Region	39,003	39,323	38,063	2,845	2,669	3,011	7.3	6.8	7.9
Haines Borough	1,173	1,296	1,193	111	101	120	9.5	7.8	10.1
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area ²	838	947	862	151	130	170	18.0	13.7	19.7
Juneau, City and Borough of	18,760	18,477	18,234	928	921	1,032	4.9	5.0	5.7
Ketchikan Gateway Borough ²	7,855	8,083	7,552	577	527	614	7.3	6.5	8.1
Petersburg Census Area ²	1,692	1,703	-	176	141	-	10.4	8.3	-
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area ²	2,462	2,519	-	335	328	-	13.6	13.0	-
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area ²	-	-	2,379	-	-	340	-	-	14.3
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,390	4,347	4,382	274	256	282	6.2	5.9	6.4
Skagway, Municipality of ²	584	644	574	160	140	147	27.4	21.7	25.6
Wrangell, City and Borough of ²	1,002	1,027	-	104	102	-	10.4	9.9	-
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area ²	-	-	2,614	-	-	271	-	-	10.4
Yakutat, City and Borough of	247	280	273	29	23	35	11.7	8.2	12.8
Southwest Region	17,524	17,964	16,299	2,315	2,114	2,074	13.2	11.8	12.7
Aleutians East Borough	943	1,124	809	168	112	100	17.8	10.0	12.4
Aleutians West Census Area	2,787	2,764	2,408	351	190	184	12.6	6.9	7.6
Bethel Census Area	7,377	7,553	7,135	951	985	978	12.9	13.0	13.7
Bristol Bay Borough	563	603	519	41	40	39	7.3	6.6	7.5
Dillingham Census Area	1,871	1,833	1,816	198	193	192	10.6	10.5	10.6
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,112	1,162	900	72	68	75	6.5	5.9	8.3
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,871	2,925	2,712	534	526	506	18.6	18.0	18.7

P = Preliminary. As more information becomes available, data are revised every month for the previous month and again at the end of every calendar year.

Note: The official definition of unemployment excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Many in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.

¹Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted should not be compared with those that are.

²Because of the creation of new boroughs, this borough or census area has been changed or no longer exists. Data for the Skagway Municipality and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (previously the Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area) became available in 2010. Data for the City and Borough of Wrangell, Petersburg Census Area, and Prince of Wales-Hyder went into effect in January 2011. Prior to January 2011, data were published for Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area and Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics